



1731

SP00-295

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Craft et al.

Serial No: 09/675,352

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Title: METHOD FOR PREGOBGING
AN OPTICAL FIBER AND
SYSTEM PRODUCING
OPTICAL FIBER THEREFROM

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: J. Hoffmann

REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S 1st OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated July 9, 2002, designated as Paper No. 7 in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and consider the Remarks as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the para. starting on page 6 and ending on page 7 with the following revised paragraph:

A 1
The pregobbing heating furnace 24, as best illustrated in Fig. 4, has an induction heater with an induction coil 62 and a susceptor 64. The furnace 24 further includes a cylindrical heating chamber 28, heat insulation 30 surrounding the heating chamber, and the induction coil 62 surrounding the susceptor 64, chamber and preform 22 and providing a hot zone 60 for heating the leading tip 32 of the preform 22. The induction coil, size and shape of the chamber, and insulation provided are such that the temperature profile of the pregobbing furnace 24 adjacent the tip is substantially identical to that of the draw furnace 42 (Fig. 6). This is accomplished in practice by having the internal components of the furnace be identical and adjusting the temperature controls for any slight differences.